



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

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DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

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Fifth District

January 8, 2007

To: Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**BOARD MOTION REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY SPECIFIC  
PREVENTION PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY - STATUS REPORT**

The purpose of this memo is to provide a status report and request an extension until February 15, 2007, for submission of the next status report to your Board in response to the March 14, 2006 motion by Supervisors Knabe and Yaroslavsky. The motion instructs the Chief Administrative Office (CAO), in partnership with the Children's Planning Council (CPC), the Commission for Children and Family Services (Commission), Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), and the New Directions Task Force (NDTF) to submit a plan that identifies what is required to fund, organize, test, implement, contract for, and administer a community-specific, prevention program in Los Angeles County, including a pilot and implementation timeframe. The motion was in response to a report on preventing child maltreatment jointly prepared by the Commission and the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS).

To date, your Board has received three status reports on our collaborative effort with representatives from CPC, the Commission, ICAN, NDTF department heads, Board Deputies, USC Professor Jacquelyn McCroskey, representatives from First 5 LA, and community service providers with expertise in delivering preventive services. The reports issued on July 17, August 17, and September 27, 2006, respectively outlined our joint work to create a shared vision and set a strategic direction for establishing a community specific prevention system in Los Angeles County that integrates, and enhances the existing myriad of County programs and resources promoting safe and stable families and communities.

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Since our September, 2006 status report, DCFS has determined to seek your Board's authorization to implement the first phase of the Prevention Initiative (PI). DCFS continues to emphasize the critical need for an effective and comprehensive community response, given the fact that the Department received nearly 144,000 referrals in 2005-06 with only 20% of the referred families requiring formal intervention for the purpose of child protection. As proposed by DCFS, the first phase would allow increased funding to Family Support Network (FSN) contractors and their collaborative partners to provide enhanced prevention and family support services to at risk families known to DCFS as a result of referrals which were unsubstantiated for abuse and neglect. Strategies would include: 1) strengthening community-based social networks through community engagement and organizing processes based on a philosophy of Assets Based Community Development; 2) promoting family economic success; and, 3) organizing/maintaining a coordinated continuum of community-based services, supports, activities and resources.

Anticipating your Board's authorization of the first phase of the PI implementation process, DCFS has engaged Casey Family Foundation to identify successful prevention efforts from elsewhere in the field to obtain the solicitation, procurement, implementation, and evaluation of the PI. Using this information, DCFS will procure critical services and supports from eight SPA-based FSN PI leads. My office, along with the other stakeholders mentioned in your Board's March 14, 2006 motion, are in the process of assessing our respective, appropriate roles in the PI process with the intent that these will be implemented as part of the second phase of this Countywide prevention effort.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Lari Sheehan of my staff at (213) 893-2477, or [lsheehan@cao.lacounty.gov](mailto:lsheehan@cao.lacounty.gov).

DEJ:LS  
CP:hn

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
County Counsel  
Department of Children and Family Services  
New Directions Task Force Members  
Children's Planning Council  
Commission for Children and Family Services  
Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect